

One year after Afghanistan, spy agencies pivot toward China



People walk past a billboard welcoming U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, in Taipei, Taiwan, Aug 3, 2022.

Associated Press

By NOMAAN MERCHANT
WASHINGTON (AP) — In a recent closed-door meeting with leaders of the agency's counterterrorism center, the CIA's No. 2 official made clear that fighting al-Qaida and oth-

er extremist groups would remain a priority — but that the agency's money and resources would be increasingly shifted to focusing on China. One year after ending the war in Afghanistan, Presi-

dent Joe Biden and top national security officials speak less about counterterrorism and more about the political, economic and military threats posed by China as well as Russia.

Continued on next page

Arubans are satisfied with the tourism development on Aruba



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Continued from Front

There's been a quiet pivot within intelligence agencies, which are moving hundreds of officers to China-focused positions, including some who were previously working on terrorism.

Intelligence officials stress that the counterterrorism fight is hardly being ignored. Just a week ago it revealed a CIA drone attack killed al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri in Kabul. But days later, China staged large-scale military exercises and threatened to cut off contacts with the U.S. over House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. It underscored the message CIA deputy director David Cohen had delivered at that meeting weeks ago: the agency's top priority is trying to understand and counter Beijing.

The U.S. has long been alarmed by China's growing political and economic ambitions. China has tried to influence foreign elections, mounted campaigns of cyber and corporate espionage, and detained millions of minority Uyghurs in camps. Some experts also think Beijing will in coming years try to seize the self-ruled democratic island of Taiwan by force.

Intelligence officials have said they need more insights on China, including after being unable to definitively pinpoint the cause of the COVID-19 pandemic. Beijing has been accused of withholding information about the origins of the virus.

And the war in Ukraine has underscored Russia's importance as a target. The U.S. used declassified information to expose Russian President Vladimir Putin's war plans before the invasion and rally diplomatic support for Kyiv.

Supporters of the Biden administration approach note that the fact the U.S. was able to track and kill al-Zawahri is evidence of its capabilities to target threats in Afghanistan from abroad. Critics say the fact that al-Zawahri was living in Kabul, under the apparent protection of the Taliban, suggests there's a resurgence of extremist groups



Treasury Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David Cohen testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015, before the Senate Banking Committee hearing on Iran sanctions.

Associated Press

that America is ill-equipped to counter.

The shift in priorities is supported by many former intelligence officers and lawmakers from both parties who say it's overdue. That includes people who served in Afghanistan and other missions against al-Qaida and other terrorist groups.

Rep. Jason Crow, a former Army Ranger who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, said he believed the U.S. had been overly focused on counterterrorism over the last several years.

"A far greater existential threat is Russia and China," said Crow, a Colorado Democrat who serves on the House Intelligence and Armed Services committees. Terrorist groups, he said, "will not destroy the American way of life ... the way China can."

CIA spokesperson Tammy Thorp noted that terrorism "remains a very real challenge."

"Even as crises such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine and strategic challenges such as that posed by the People's Republic of China demand our attention, CIA will continue to aggressively track terrorist threats globally and work with partners to counter them," Thorp said.

Congress has pushed the CIA and other intelligence agencies to make China a top priority, according

to several people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence matters. Pushing resources toward China has required cuts elsewhere, including in counterterrorism. Specific figures were unavailable because intelligence budgets are classified.

In particular, lawmakers want more information about China's development in advanced technologies. Under President Xi Jinping, China has committed trillions of dollars in investment on quantum science, artificial intelligence and other technologies that are likely to disrupt how future wars are fought and economies are structured.

As part of the shift, congressional committees are trying to better track how intelligence agencies spend their funding on China, seeking more detail about how specific programs contribute to that mission, one person familiar with the matter said.

"We are late, but it's good that we're finally changing our focus into that region," said Rep. Chris Stewart, a Utah Republican who serves on the House Intelligence Committee. "That means in people, in resources, in military assets, and in diplomacy."

The CIA last year announced it would create

two new "mission centers" — one on China, one on emerging technologies — to centralize and improve intelligence collection on those issues. The CIA is also trying to recruit more Chinese speakers and reduce wait times on security clearances to hire new people faster.

Inside the agency, many officers are learning Chinese and moving into new roles focused on China, though not all of those jobs require language training, people familiar with the matter said.

Officials note that intelligence officers are trained to adapt to new challenges and that many were moved more quickly into counterterrorism roles after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Advances from counterterrorism work — including better use of data and different sources of intelligence to build networks and identify targets — are also useful in countering Russia and China, former officers said.

"It's the analytics and targeting machine that has become extraordinary," said Douglas Wise, a former CIA senior officer who was deputy chief of operations at the counterterrorism center.

The CIA's Counterterrorism Center, renamed the Counterterrorism Mission Center in a 2015 reorganization, remains a point of

pride for many people who credit its work for keeping Americans safe from terrorism after Sept. 11. CIA officers landed in Afghanistan on Sept. 26, 2001, and were part of operations to displace the Taliban and find and kill leaders of al-Qaida including Osama bin Laden. And 13 years after a double agent tricked officers pursuing al-Zawahri and blew himself up, killing seven agency employees, the CIA killed him in a strike with no reported civilian casualties.

The CIA was also involved in some of the darkest moments of the fight against terrorism. It operated secret "black site" jails to hold terrorism suspects, some wrongly, and was found by a Senate investigation to have used interrogation methods that amounted to torture. Elite Afghan special operations units trained by the CIA were also accused of killing civilians and violating international law.

There's long been a debate over whether counterterrorism pulled intelligence agencies too far away from traditional spying and whether some of the CIA's work in targeting terrorists should instead be done by special forces under the military.

Marc Polymeropoulos is a retired CIA operations officer and former base chief in Afghanistan.

He said he supports a greater focus on China and Russia but added, "There's no reason to diminish what we had to do."

"This notion that somehow all the CT work we did, somehow that was wrong, that we took our eye of the ball — just remember on Sept. 12 what everyone was feeling," he said.

Re-orienting the agencies toward more of a focus on China and Russia will ultimately take years and require both patience and recognition that the agency's culture will take time to change, Wise said.

"For decades, we have been doing counterterrorism," Wise said. "We've got to have a rational plan to make this adaptation, which doesn't take so long that our enemies can exploit a glacial process." □



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Researchers ask Census to stop controversial privacy method

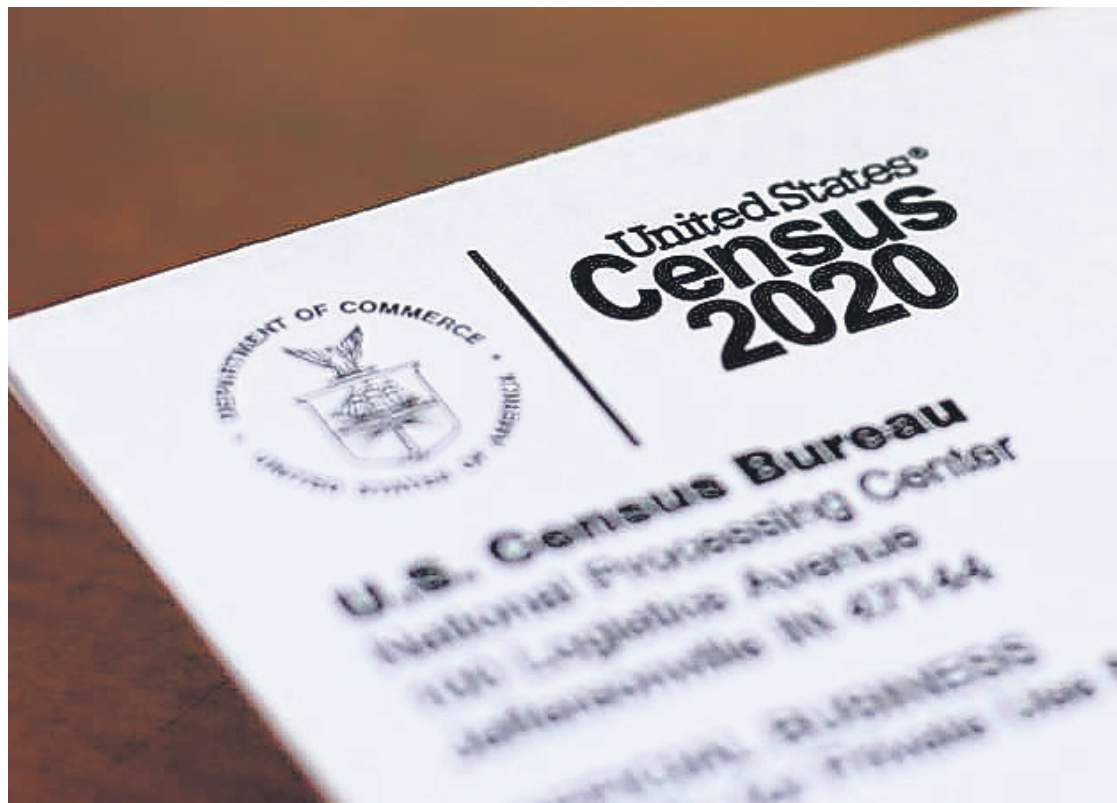
By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**

Prominent demographers are asking the U.S. Census Bureau to abandon a controversial method for protecting survey and census participants' confidentiality, saying it is jeopardizing the usability of numbers that are the foundation of the nation's data infrastructure.

The Census Bureau embraced using differential privacy algorithms for the first time with the release last year of the first round of 2020 census data. Those numbers were used for determining how many congressional seats each state gets, as well as redrawing political districts in a once-a-decade process known as redistricting.

The demographers and other researchers ask in a letter to Census Bureau Director Robert Santos that the agency drop future plans to use the algorithms on two other important data releases — annual population estimates and the American Community Survey figures. The annual population estimates are used in the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in federal funding each year. The American Community Survey provides the most comprehensive data on how people in the U.S. live by asking questions about commuting times, internet access, family life, income, education levels, disabilities, military service and employment.

The privacy protection methods "are inappropriate for the critically important data sets, which are



This Sunday, April 5, 2020, file photo, shows an envelope containing a 2020 census letter mailed to a U.S. resident in Detroit.

fundamental to American democracy and to equity in redistricting, fund allocation and planning for government services of all kind," the letter said.

The Census Bureau has said that the differential privacy algorithms are needed since, without them, the growth of easily available third-party data combined with modern computing could allow hackers to piece together the identities of participants in its censuses and surveys in violation of the law. Previous methods of protection are no longer effective, according to the statistical agency.

A panel of three federal judges last year refused to stop the Census Bureau from using the algorithms

after their use was challenged in a lawsuit by the state of Alabama.

Census consultant Terri Ann Lowenthal said the letter reflects "the significant unease about the continued usefulness of Census Bureau data in light of new efforts to protect confidentiality in the modern world." "The concerns get to the heart of the bureau's mission, so I'm sure agency leadership will take them seriously and, hopefully, find acceptable solutions based on meaningful stakeholder engagement," said Lowenthal, a former congressional staffer who specializes in census issues. The letter was spearheaded by steering committee members from the Federal-State Cooperative for Pop-

ulation Estimates, which promotes cooperation and communication between the Census Bureau and state agencies responsible for demographic research. Its members started gathering signatures for the letter last week from other researchers and will present the letter to Santos sometime in the next several weeks. Differential privacy algorithms add intentional errors to data to obscure the identity of any given participant. It is most noticeable at the smallest geographies, such as census blocks. For the next census in 2030, the demographers recommended using other methods to protect confidentiality such as combining blocks with few people. Some of the detailed data

that were made public in previous censuses won't be released at the smallest geographic levels, and efforts to apply the algorithm have delayed the release of the next round of 2020 census data until next year, almost two years after it should have been released, the letter said.

"These key data for local government planning will be out-of-date when they are finally released," it said. City University of New York sociology professor emeritus Andrew Beveridge warned over the weekend at the Joint Statistical Meetings conference in Washington that private data providers are ready "to pounce" and fill the gap if researchers feel the Census Bureau data is unusable. That could lead to the privatization of the U.S. statistical infrastructure, Beveridge said during a presentation at the largest gathering of statisticians and data users in North America. The demographers claim in their letter that the statistical agency's credibility is on the line, saying "the experience of the last few years has undermined user trust in the Census Bureau."

Last month at meeting sponsored by the National Academies on differential privacy, Santos was asked about the feasibility of reverting back to previous confidentiality methods.

"I understand where you are coming from. I feel your pain," Santos said. "We have made a determination that if we want to protect data in today's society... that is not possible." □

Associated Press

Albuquerque police seek car in killings of 4 Muslim men

By **STEFANIE DAZIO and MARIAM FAM**
Associated Press

Authorities on Monday identified the fourth victim in a series of killings of Muslim men in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the deaths sent ripples of fear through the Islamic community nationwide.

Law enforcement officials are also seeking help to find a vehicle believed to be connected to the slayings in New Mexico's largest city, where the common elements were the victims' race and religion, officials said.

Naeem Hussain was killed Friday night, and ambush shootings killed three other Muslim men over the past nine months. Police are trying to determine if the slayings are linked.

The killings have sent spread fear beyond New Mexico.

"The fact the suspect remains at large is terrifying," Debbie Almontaser, a Muslim community leader in New York, wrote on Twitter. "Who is next?!"

In a phone interview, Almontaser said that a female friend who lives in Michigan and wears the hijab shared with her over the weekend just how rattled she was. "She's like, 'This is so terrifying. I'm so scared. I travel alone,'" Almontaser said.

Hussain, 25, was a Muslim from Pakistan. His death followed those of Muhammad Afzaal Hussain, 27, and Aftab Hussein, 41, who were killed in the past



Albuquerque Police Deputy Chief of Investigations Cecily Barker holds a flyer with photos of a car wanted in connection with Muslim men murdered as Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham looks on in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Sunday, Aug. 7, 2022.

Associated Press

week. Both were from Pakistan and members of the same mosque.

The earliest case involves the November killing of Mohammad Ahmadi, 62, a Muslim man from Afghanistan. Police said the same vehicle is suspected of being used in all four homicides — a dark gray or silver four-door Volkswagen that appears to be a Jetta with dark tinted windows. Authorities released photos hoping people could help identify the car.

"We will bring this person or these persons to justice," Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said Sunday. Investigators did not say where the images were taken or what led them

to suspect the car was involved in the slayings.

"We have a very, very strong link," Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller said Sunday. "We have a vehicle of interest ... We have got to find this vehicle."

President Joe Biden said he was "angered and saddened" by the killings and that his administration "stands strongly with the Muslim community."

"These hateful attacks have no place in America," Biden said Sunday in a tweet.

The conversation about safety has also dominated WhatsApp groups and email groups that Almontaser is on.

"What we've seen happen in New Mexico is very chill-

ing for us as a Muslim minority community in the United States that has endured so much backlash and discrimination" since the 9/11 attacks, she said. "It's frightening. It's scary."

Last year, a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research conducted ahead of the 20th anniversary of 9/11 found that 53% of Americans at the time had unfavorable views toward Islam, compared with 42% who had favorable ones. This stood in contrast to Americans' opinions about Christianity and Judaism, for which most respondents expressed favorable views. Albuquerque authorities say they cannot determine

if the recent shootings were hate crimes until they have identified a suspect and a motive. Police did not return calls seeking comment Monday.

Hussain was found dead after police received a call of a shooting. Authorities declined to say whether the killing was carried out in a way similar to the other deaths. Police confirmed last week that local detectives and federal law enforcement officers were looking for possible ties between the killings.

Muhammad Afzaal Hussain had worked as a field organizer for a local congresswoman's campaign.

Rep. Melanie Stansbury issued a statement praising him as "one of the kindest and hardest working people" she has ever known. She said the urban planner was "committed to making our public spaces work for every person and cleaning up legacy pollution."

As land-use director for the city of Española — more than 85 miles (137 kilometers) north of Albuquerque — Muhammad Afzaal Hussain worked to improve conditions and inclusivity for disadvantaged minorities, according to the mayor's office.

"Muhammad was soft-spoken and kind, and quick to laugh," Española Mayor John Ramon Vigil said in a news release. The city staff "has lost a member of our family, and we all have lost a brilliant public servant who wanted to service and improve his community." □



Cincinnati police officer investigate the scene early Sunday, Aug. 7, 2022, in Cincinnati, following an overnight shooting.

Associated Press

9 wounded in shooting outside Cincinnati bar, police say

CINCINNATI (AP) — At least nine people were wounded — none critically — in a shooting outside a Cincinnati bar early Sunday, police said.

The shooting took place shortly after 1:30 a.m. outside Mr. Pitiful's bar in the Ohio city's Over-the-Rhine district, a popular nightlife area. Most of the victims suffered wounds to their lower halves, Lt. Col. Mike

John of the Cincinnati police told reporters.

John said during a Sunday news conference that eight men and one woman ranging in age from 23 to 47 were wounded. All nine people treated at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center had been released, hospital spokesperson Heather Chura told The (Cincinnati) Enquirer. A police officer fired one

round at a suspect who fled the scene, but it was unclear if that person was hit, something John called "a little unusual." More shots were fired after that person fled, so police believe at least two people were shooting, he said.

"What I can tell you is that the individual that he fired at was actively shooting a firearm at that time," John said. □

Fire at Cuba oil facility spreads as 3rd tank ignites

HAVANA (AP) — A deadly fire that began at a large oil storage facility in western Cuba spread Monday after flames enveloped a third tank that firefighters had tried to cool as they struggle to fight the massive blaze.

At least one person has died and 125 are injured, with dozens of firefighters reported missing ever since lighting struck one of the facility's eight tanks on Friday night. A second tank caught fire on Saturday, triggering several explosions at the facility, which plays a key part in Cuba's electric system.

"The risk we had announced happened, and the blaze of the second tank compromised the third one," said Mario Sabines, governor of the western province of Matanzas where the facility is located.



Firefighters move in a truck inside the Matanzas supertanker base to douse a fire that started during a thunderstorm, in Matanzas, Cuba, Sunday, Aug. 7, 2022

Associated Press

Firefighters had sprayed water on the remaining tanks over the weekend to cool them and try to stop the fire from spreading.

The governments of Mexico and Venezuela have sent special teams to help

extinguish the fire, with water cannons, planes and helicopters fighting the fire from several directions as military constructions specialists erected barriers to contain oil spills. Local officials warned residents to

use face masks or stay indoors given the billowing smoke enveloping the region that can be seen from the capital of Havana, located more than 65 miles (100 kilometers) away. Officials have warned that the

cloud contains sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide and other poisonous substances.

The majority of those injured were treated for burns and smoke inhalation, and five of them remain in critical condition.

A total of 24 remain hospitalized. Over the weekend, authorities found the body of one firefighter as relatives of those still missing gathered at a hotel to await news about their loved ones.

Sabines and Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel said it was impossible to search for the missing firefighters given the roiling temperatures.

The blaze at the Matanzas Supertanker Base in Matanzas city prompted officials to evacuate more than 4,900 people, most of them from the nearby Dubroca neighborhood. □

Blinken says U.S. is "equal partner" with African countries

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The United States sees Africa's 54 nations as "equal partners" in tackling global problems, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in South Africa Monday.

"Our strategy is rooted in the recognition that sub-Saharan Africa is a major geopolitical force one that has shaped our past, is shaping our present, and will shape our future," Blinken said at the University of Pretoria in a speech detailing the Biden administration's policies for Africa.

"It's a strategy that reflects

the region's complexity, its diversity, its agency; and one that focuses on what we will do with African nations and peoples, not for African nations and peoples," he said. Blinken said that the United States and African nations "can't achieve any of our shared priorities whether that's recovering from the pandemic; creating broad-based economic opportunities; addressing the climate crisis; expanding energy access; revitalizing democracies; or strengthening the free and open international order if we

don't work together, as equal partners."

South African academics

and students responded warmly to Blinken's speech, which was a broad decla-

ration of U.S. intentions toward sub-Saharan Africa. □



Secretary of State Antony Blinken is greeted by South Africa's Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor as he arrives for a meeting at the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation in Pretoria, South Africa, Monday, Aug. 8, 2022.

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U.N. chief urges nuke powers to abide by no-first-use pledge

TOKYO (AP) — United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday urged countries with nuclear weapons to stick to their no-first-use commitment of their atomic arsenals, warning that the nuclear arms race has returned amid growing international tension.

"This is the moment ... to ask the nuclear-armed countries to commit to the principle of non-first-use and to commit to not use and not threaten the non-nuclear countries," Guterres said at a news conference in Tokyo, two days after he visited Hiroshima to commemorate victims of the Aug. 6, 1945, atomic bombing.

"I think that nobody, nobody can accept the idea that a new nuclear war would happen.

This will be the destruction of the planet," Guterres said. "What is clear is if nobody uses for the first time then there will be no nuclear war."

Fears of a third atomic bombing have been on the rise amid Russia's threats of a nuclear attack since its war on Ukraine began in February.

On Thursday, Moscow shelled the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, which holds Europe's largest nuclear



Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres delivers a speech at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo, Monday, Aug. 8, 2022.

Associated Press

plant. When asked about the attack, Guterres said, "Any attack to a nuclear plant is a suicidal thing."

He said he fully supports the International Atomic Energy Agency in their effort to stabilize the plant and have access to the facility to exercise its mandate.

Guterres said that after decades of nuclear disarmament efforts, the world is now "moving backwards," noting that the world already has 13,000 nuclear

bombs and huge investment going into modernization of atomic arsenals. "So this is the time to say: Stop it."

Guterres said that the billions of dollars being used in the arms race should be spent on other pressing issues.

"The billions that are being used in this arms race need to be used to fighting climate change, fighting poverty, addressing the needs of the international

community," he said.

He said he will be also going to Mongolia and South Korea to discuss ways to address North Korea's nuclear development.

Asked about China's ongoing military exercises surrounding Taiwan in response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit last week to the self-governing island, Guterres said the U.N. abides by the general assembly resolution supporting the "One China"

policy, which acknowledges Beijing's view that it has sovereignty over Taiwan, but considers Taiwan's status as unsettled.

"We all want that resolution to correspond to a peaceful environment," he said, calling for "common sense and then restraint, allowing for de-escalation."

Earlier Monday, Guterres met with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and shared "serious concern about the tense situation in the region and concurred on the importance of de-escalating the tension," the ministry said in a statement.

At a time when geopolitical tensions are rising and the nuclear threat is back in focus, Japan's strong and consistent voice on peace is more important than ever, Guterres said, urging Japan to use its unique position as the world's only country to have suffered atomic attacks to act as "a bridge-builder and peace-maker to strengthen global cooperation and trust and solidarity."

Guterres said he is counting on Japan's potential to take leadership on the global fight against climate change, and specifically urged Tokyo to stop funding coal plants. □

Mexico to send aquatic drone into shaft with trapped miners

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico will attempt to send an aquatic drone into a collapsed coal mine where 10 miners have been trapped since last week.

Laura Velázquez, national Civil Defense coordinator, said Monday that images from the drone could help authorities decide whether to send in divers without

putting them at risk.

She also said that 25 pumps were working to remove water from the flooded shafts. Water that was once 111 feet (34 meters) deep was now between 55 and 78 feet (17 and 26 meters) deep.

The mine in Sabinas, Coahuila about 70 miles southwest of Eagle Pass, Texas, collapsed last Wednesday with 15 miners inside. Five managed to escape with injuries. Authorities say the miners breached a neighboring space filled with water. There has been no contact with the remaining 10. The miners' families are desperate and some complained Sunday that President Andrés Manuel López Obrador gave them little

information when he visited the site.

"I appreciate that he has come to take a photo with my pain, the pain of my family and the pain of everyone of us here," said Lucía Rodríguez, mother of one of the miners, in a video circulated on social media. "I hope that his photographs serve his policy well."

The president said that as a public servant you have to be willing "to always pay the tax of humiliation," but that his conscience is clear because the rescue teams arrived to the site in two hours and have been working day and night to rescue the miners. The state and federal prosecutor's offices have opened investiga-

tions to determine those responsible for the accident. Such small mines are often the result of locals who get concessions and then contract teams of miners. Experts say they seldom have the safety plans and equipment necessary to reduce the risk of accidents.

In June and July of 2021, cave-ins at two Coahuila mines claimed the lives of nine miners.

Mexico's worst mining accident also occurred in Coahuila on Feb. 19, 2006, when an explosion ripped through the Pasta de Conchos mine while 73 miners were inside. Eight were rescued with injuries including serious burns. The rest died and only two of their bodies were recovered. □



Volunteers drain water from a flooded and collapsed coal mine where miners are trapped in Sabinas, Coahuila state, Mexico, Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

Minister of Economic Affairs announces price reduction for gasoline and diesel

ORANJESTAD – Aruba's minister of Economic Affairs, Communication and Sustainable Development, Mr. Geoffrey Wever, during a press conference yesterday morning, confirmed the news that the price for gasoline and diesel will see a substantial reduction on the 10th of August.

He mentioned that the reduction will be 42.5 cents (12.7%) for the price of gasoline, and for diesel it will be 34.2 cents (10.9%) per liter.

It is customary – in the past – that there are publications with insinuations and political motivations

	Benzine	Gasolie	Kerosine
Price per liter (cent)	Premium	U.I.S	
Current price	335.70	312.70	291.10
New price (from the 10 th of August)	293.20	278.50	257.70
Difference	-42.5	-34.2	-33.4
Difference (%)	-12.7%	-10.9%	-11.5%
Based on posting until the 31 st of July 2022			

when the minister must an-

nounce a price increase for fuel, according to the minister. While the news of the price reduction surely is very good for the people of Aruba, minister Wever wanted to take this opportunity to assure the people once again that the price of gasoline is determined by international developments in the oil industry.

Minister Wever said he is pleased with the reduction, seeing that it will have a positive effect for those less fortunate, but according to the minister, "once again we are reminded that Aruba is at the mercy of international developments. We must use this opportunity to remind the

people of the importance of sustainable development, both in energy and in other aspects as well".

Aruba needs to have understanding and cooperation for the developments that need to take place in order to push our country to a more sustainable path, where we can begin to go in the direction of reducing the dependence of our country on external factors. This will help us as a country to be stronger and to prevent situations with negative effects for the entire community. The minister emphasizes that this is the goal for the following years.



According to a survey by A.T.A., Arubans are satisfied with the tourism development on Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Tourism is the only economic pillar of Aruba and has a great impact on the lives of our citizens. In order to measure the effect of tourism on the local population, and to know what feeling reigns among our community regarding tourism, Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A.) carried out a survey.

Minister of Tourism, Dangui Oduber finds this survey to be of great importance for the government to be aware of the feelings of the Aruban population, specially coming out of a pandemic which had very negative effects on the whole world.

Minister Oduber said that A.T.A. carried out the survey among our local population. They received assistance, among others, from students of the University of Aruba, who helped with

data collection. It is important to point out that this type of survey had already been done in the past, in 2005 and last in 2018.

The survey this year was carried out in different ways and platforms, it was possible to participate in person, on a website, Facebook, Instagram or via QR code, among other methods. In total, almost two thousand people participated in this survey, encompassing all ages, gender, district, legal status, employment status and education levels. That is to say that the survey counted with the opinion of every group in our society.

What stood out was that compared to previous years, the sentiment for social development (56%) this year received a higher score than the sentiment for economic develop-

ment (44%). More people share the opinion that Aruba needs to invest more in social development. It can be concluded that this is because of the effects of the pandemic of Covid-19.

Regarding the impact of tourism on local and Aruban families, the sentiment received a positive score of 3.6 (1 to 5). The impact of tourism on the local population received a score of 3.8 (1 to 5), which is also

positive.

The minister of Tourism said he is satisfied with these numbers, which also encourage him to keep working to benefit our working population.



Bowls Noodle Bar invites you to a Happy Hour with a unique flavor



Bowls Noodle Bar recently opened at their new location at The Village, near the High Rise Hotels. To celebrate, they are launching their new Happy Hour from 9pm to 11pm every day.

Before the pandemic, Bowls Noodle Bar opened at the Hyatt by the airport, and was in the process of opening a second location at The Village when the pandemic hit. Due to the consequences of the pandemic, they decided to close the restaurant by the airport and open their new location at The Village. Their new location has been open for about six months to great results.

At The Village, night time is the best time. This is why they are now offering a daily Happy Hour, from 9pm to 11pm. It includes \$3 beer and \$5 cocktails.

and the oil, and these are very important for the traditional Japanese soups. At Bowls Noodle Bar, they have a wide variety of flavors to cater to every taste, like the famous Pork Chashu. It comes with fresh ramen noodles, and it's the pride of Bowls Noodle Bar. Chef Warren says that the broth for this soup takes two to three days to make, and is made in-house, with fresh and delicious ingredients. They also cater to vegetarians and vegans, with various options on the menu like tofu mushroom soup, vegetable gyoza, wonton, and fresh kimchi fermented at the restaurant.

The wok concept also allows you to create your own unique dish, choosing your base, protein, vegetables and sauce.

Origin

The founders of Bowls Noodle Bar, Dexter Moreno and his partner Lai, opened their first location on Curaçao. They traveled to Japan to study Japanese Cuisine, and they fell in love with Japanese soup. Lai's parents are Chinese, and this is the start of the Asian-fusion flavors that are both surprising and delectable, combining Japanese, Chinese and even some Korean cuisine. Chef Warren was trained in these traditional flavors by the founders themselves.

They came to Aruba where Dexter approached some ex-colleagues in the industry to open a location on the island, and with a local team, opened Bowls Noodle Bar Aruba with a more extensive menu.

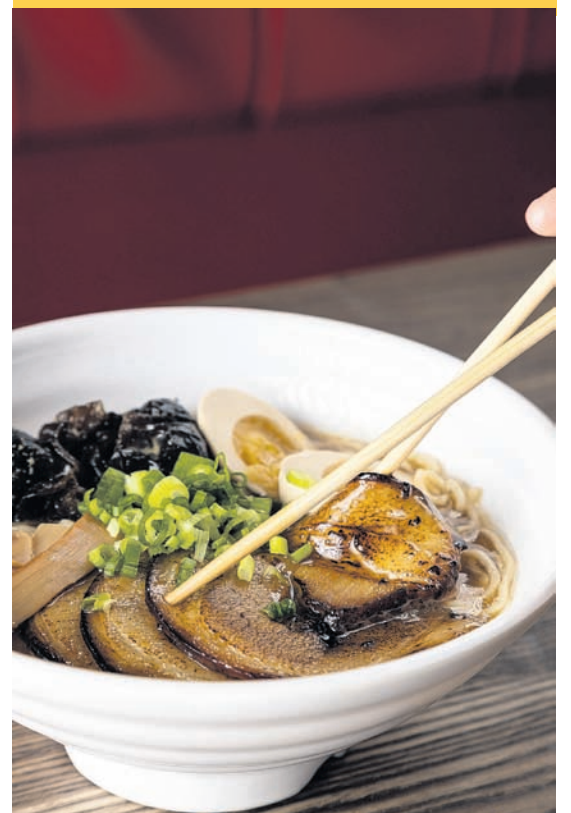


Their cocktails are made in-house with a unique fusion of Asian flavors, for example, the popular purple Ube Mojito, with the flavor of traditional Ube, a Japanese dessert; the Blue Samurai with ginger flavor; and the refreshing Fruity Blossoms, with a flavor encompassing the Sakura, the famous Japanese Cherry Blossoms. You can try all these for only \$5 each during Happy Hour.

Fusion is at the core of the unique flavors of Bowls Noodle Bar, and this is expressed beautifully in their traditional Japanese soups. They are the only restaurant in Aruba that has most of the noodles traditionally used, Udon, Ramen, and Rice noodles. Ramen noodles, served fresh, are a surprising flavor for those who are used to dried ramen noodles. They also have Jasmine rice for the rice bowls.

Their authentic soups are the highlight and star. Chef Warren explains that there are four main components to the soup: the broth, the noodles, tare,

Opening hours are Monday to Thursday 5pm – 11:30pm; Friday and Saturday 5pm – 12pm; and Sunday 5pm – 11:30pm. Come visit for great atmosphere, delicious flavors, and a Happy Hour to remember! ☐





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Honoring of loyal visitors at Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

Eagle Beach □ Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years

"Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".

The honorees were Michael V. & Maryanne Toto, residents of New Jersey, United States as well as Michael J. and Gina Toto, residents of New Jersey, United States who have been honored as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba.

This symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive year mark.

The top reasons for returning that were provided by the honorees were that



Aruba is their home away from home, the wonderful people of Aruba, the amazing culture, hospitality and food, beautiful natural scenery and seeing old friends year after year.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority and members

of Marriott Aruba Ocean Club bestowed the certificate of the Ambassadors and handed some presents to the honoree and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years on behalf of the Government of Aruba.

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper,

we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Sue and Dave Ota from Gilbert, Arizona, United States.

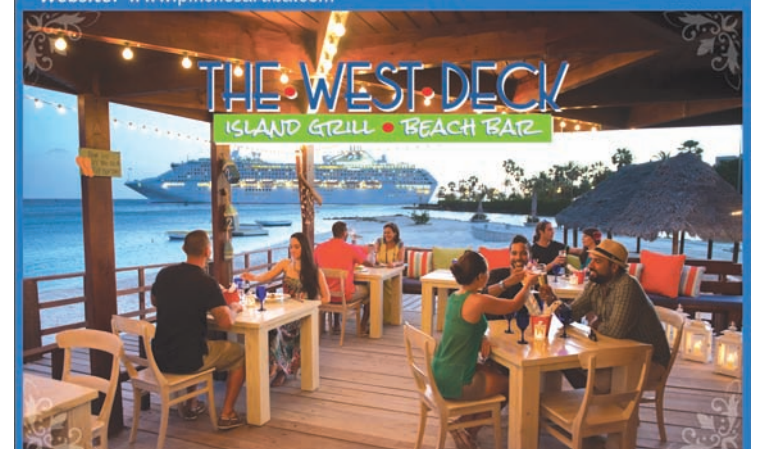
They wrote to us saying:

"Aruba to me is our perfect vacation spot! This is our 7th visit, and I am sure will not be our last."

Thank you for sharing your vacation photo with us and our readers. We hope you enjoyed your vacation and look forward to have you back on the Island. □



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Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!



Noord - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of trash straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery.

The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous "Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.

The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long

enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass could be used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass. Each colored gem on the beach has its own story and origin.

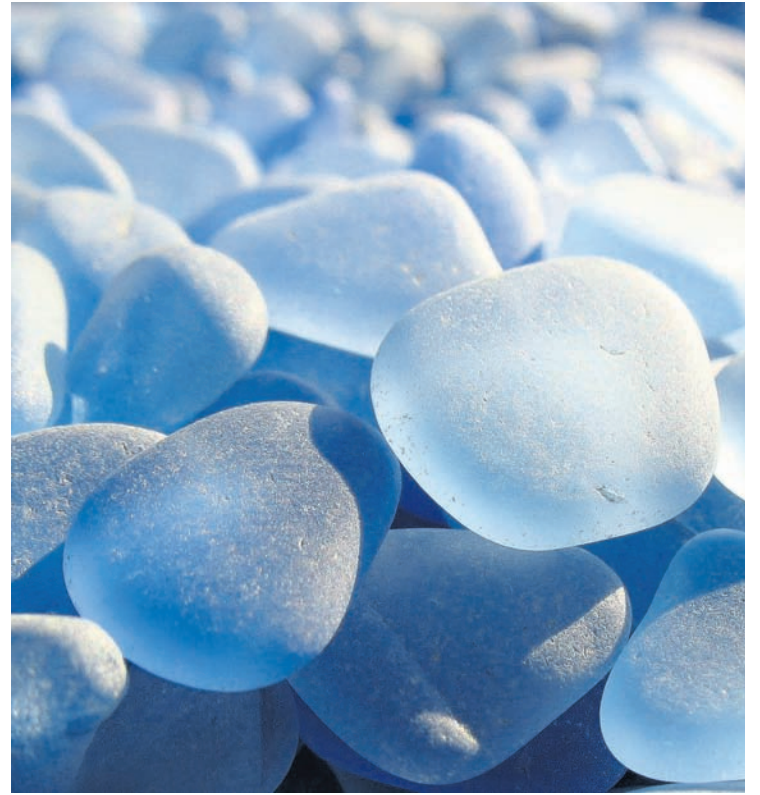
The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures! Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem with you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! ☐



Sociologist and scientist, Leon Berenos

Quality of life is tied to knowledge, not money earned

Leon Berenos is an Aruban working around the world, who knows history like the palm of his hand. He is a scientist and sociologist. He loves history, seeing as he worked in media his whole life, around the world. In sociology there is a field related to history, and according to Berenos, he likes history and his background is communications.

According to Berenos, what he likes about his job is that in media you learn many things. "However, I came back to Aruba and what I realized is that 90% of our population know nothing about Aruba, the country where we all live, and there are so many who don't know about their own country."

For this reason, Berenos decided to focus on the history for Aruban people, and he wants everyone to know that Aruba is a great island and has a very long history. Our own population must know 388 years of our country's history and also how they themselves stand as a citizen of this country in the social economic history.

Berenos recently was present during a night of exchange regarding the history of slavery at the Nicolaas Store in San Nicolas,

not only to listen, but also to contribute in certain topics related to the physical, psychological and social history of Aruba.

In various occasions there had also been different social cultural activities in San Nicolas, and this with the goal of bringing life back to San Nicolas, for which there needs to be interest among the citizens to transfer knowledge from one to the other.

There is a lot of work to be done for Aruba's history. If you ask any school child who has finished HAVO or VWO (higher secondary education) and ask them about their own country, you can bet nine out of ten don't know, according to Berenos. Aruba's education system needs to match the Dutch education system, which means we take some things on board "and just copy/paste from the Netherlands, which doesn't fit Aruba."

According to Berenos, for starters, a Dutch person doesn't know what an iguana is, but in Aruba we do know about cows and dogs. The situation that Aruba finds it in doesn't apply only to Education, but it applies to everyone who lives on this island. What is a reality is that Arubans are too focused on other coun-

tries, and not enough on their own country and their own talents. For this reason, Berenos is of the opinion that we have a lot to learn.

Nowadays, information is more easily accessible, seeing how the digital world provides a space to find a lot of information to learn from. The digital world means that all knowledge in the world is in the palm of your hand, with your smartphone, TV, laptop, there are no excuses.

When people are searching for information, be it history or other subjects, their quality of life increases. This is why Berenos finds it important for Arubans to know that quality of life is tied to knowledge and not the money that they earn. Knowledge is extremely important, and when you have it, you can transfer this to your family. Talking and communicating with others is very important.

Regarding the history of slavery between Curaçao and Aruba, the difference between the two islands is economy. If economy is going well like on Aruba, government doesn't pay attention to issues that don't bring in money, for example culture, literature, and art. What does bring in money is labor. Where



there is labor there is money, for example, if you get promoted from bartender to supervisor, and in Aruba, to become a supervisor you don't need any special knowledge, only need to know how to serve people. According to Berenos, it's time for the government to see this and pay more attention to culture, literature, which are intangible spiritual aspects that make people more aware of their place.

Currently there are many people that are not aware of their history. Aruba imported people from many other countries, but with them, we also imported their customs. Citizens of Aruba left their own customs aside and took over other countries'. There are many factors, according to Berenos, that Arubans need to take into consideration, which play a role. Things Arubans do that are not part of our culture. This means that slowly, the Aruban identity was allowed to be lost. The gov-

ernment has a big task of fixing all these aspects, by giving information, formation, education, and spiritual guidance.

Tourists come to Aruba for the sun, sand and sea, which they don't have in their country. There are also older adults who come to Aruba to rest because they are stressed, and a smaller group that comes for the culture. The latter group is people who heard about Aruba and want to experience what they see digitally, they want to see the real Aruba, but they are a very small group.

But tourists also come for the people, the Aruban people are what attracts most of our tourist because the Aruban is kind and helpful. Arubans make all tourists feel welcome and at home. This is something positive for Aruba and something sociological. When a tourist comes to spend money it's because they feel at home. The people is what's most important, Berenos concludes.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 36 Singer Yoko Mamas' mates
 - 6 Weather aid paper
 - 11 Plain language to see
 - 12 Find darling
 - 13 Revealing inadvertently
 - 15 Refiner's supply
 - 16 Clinic cost
 - 17 Corn spike
 - 18 Rakes with gunfire
 - 20 Keats work
 - 21 Garden section
 - 22 Phoenix team
 - 23 Got by
 - 26 Campaign goal
 - 27 Med. sch. subject
 - 28 Martini base
 - 29 Buddy
 - 30 Joins forces
 - 34 Had supper
 - 35 Golf position
- DOWN**
- 1 Casual shirts
 - 2 Turn away
 - 3 Piper of rhyme
 - 4 Gallery fill
 - 5 Didn't tip
 - 6 Is furious
 - 7 TV spots
 - 8 Distribute
 - 9 Daughter of Minos
 - 10 Stifle
 - 14 Require
 - 19 Aid in crime
 - 22 Musical number
 - 23 Skilled
 - 24 Running wild
 - 25 Choice of colors
 - 26 Dressing base
 - 28 Make progress
 - 30 Flash
 - 31 Not flimsy
 - 32 Bring together
 - 33 Church heads
 - 38 Quirk
 - 39 Go downhill

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Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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37			38				39		
40						41			
42						43			

8-9

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-9

CRYPTOQUOTE

P Q U T V Y D J U N D A U S W Y W

M Y S Z P A U H R V Y D J U N D P

W U N M . — K Y K Z Q U

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHEN A MAN LOVES CATS, I AM HIS FRIEND AND COMRADE, WITHOUT FURTHER INTRODUCTION. — MARK TWAIN

Study connects climate hazards to 58% of infectious diseases



A man walks past a house abandoned after it was inundated by water due to the rising sea level in Sidogemah, Central Java, Indonesia, Nov. 8, 2021.

Associated Press

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

Climate hazards such as flooding, heat waves and drought have worsened more than half of the hundreds of known infectious diseases in people, including malaria, hantavirus, cholera and anthrax, a study says.

Researchers looked through the medical literature of established cases of illnesses and found that 218 out of the known 375 human infectious diseases, or 58%, seemed to be made worse by one of 10 types of extreme weather connected to climate change, according to a study in Monday's journal Nature Climate Change.

The study mapped out 1,006 pathways from the climate hazards to sick people. In some cases downpours and flooding sicken people through disease-carrying mosquitos, rats and deer. There are warming oceans and heat waves that taint seafood and other things we eat and droughts that bring bats carrying viral infections to people.

Doctors, going back to Hippocrates, have long connected disease to weather, but this study shows how widespread the influence of climate is on human health.

"If climate is changing, the risk of these diseases are changing," said study co-author Dr. Jonathan Patz, director of the Global Health Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Doctors, such as Patz,

said they need to think of the diseases as symptoms of a sick Earth.

"The findings of this study are terrifying and illustrate well the enormous consequences of climate change on human pathogens," said Dr. Carlos del Rio, an Emory University infectious disease specialist, who was not part of the study. "Those of us in infectious diseases and microbiology need to make climate change one of our priorities, and we need to all work together to prevent what will be without doubt a catastrophe as a result of climate change."

In addition to looking at infectious diseases, the researchers expanded their search to look at all type of human illnesses, including non-infectious sicknesses such as asthma, allergies and even animal bites to see how many maladies they could connect to climate hazards in some way, including infectious diseases. They found a total of 286 unique sicknesses and of those 223 of them seemed to be worsened by climate hazards, nine were diminished by climate hazards and 54 had cases of both aggravated and minimized, the study found. The new study doesn't do the calculations to attribute specific disease changes, odds or magnitude to climate change, but finds cases where extreme weather was a likely factor among many.

Study lead author Camilo Mora, a climate data ana-

lyst at the University of Hawaii, said what is important to note is that the study isn't about predicting future cases.

"There is no speculation here whatsoever," Mora said. "These are things that have already happened."

One example Mora knows first-hand. About five years ago, Mora's home in rural Colombia was flooded for the first time in his memory water was in his living room, creating an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes and Mora contracted Chikungunya, a nasty virus spread by mosquito bites.

And even though he survived, he still feels joint pain years later.

Sometimes climate change acts in odd ways. Mora includes the 2016 case in Siberia when a decades-old reindeer carcass, dead from anthrax, was unearthed when the permafrost thawed from warming. A child touched it, got anthrax and started an outbreak.

Mora originally wanted to search medical cases to see how COVID-19 intersected with climate hazards, if at all. He found cases where extreme weather both exacerbated and diminished chances of COVID-19. In some cases, extreme heat in poor areas had people congregate together to cool off and get exposed to the disease, but in other situations, heavy downpours reduced COVID spread because people stayed home and indoors, away from others. Longtime climate and public health expert Kristie Ebi at the University of Washington cautioned that she had concerns with how the conclusions were drawn and some of the methods in the study. It is an established fact that the burning of coal, oil and natural gas has led to more frequent and intense extreme weather, and research has shown that weather patterns are associated with many health issues, she said. □

U.S. issues sanctions on a 2nd virtual currency mixing firm



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen speaks about the economy during a news conference at the Treasury Department, Thursday, July 28, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

By FATIMA HUSSEIN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Treasury Department has imposed sanctions on virtual currency mixer Tornado Cash, which has allegedly helped to launder more than \$7 billion worth of virtual currency since its creation in 2019.

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control says Tornado Cash's systems were used, among other things, to launder more than \$96 million drawn from the June Harmony blockchain bridge theft and August Nomad crypto firm heist.

Mixing services combine various digital assets, including potentially illegally obtained funds and legitimately obtained funds, so that illegal actors can obscure the origin of the stolen funds.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement that the U.S. "will continue to pursue actions against mixers laundering virtual currency for criminals and those who assist them."

The new sanctions point to the growing use of digital assets to perpetuate illegal acts by state actors and individuals. Lawmakers and administration officials have voiced concerns about the use of cryptocurrency to engage in illicit

acts.

"The United States will not hesitate to use its authorities against malicious cyber actors, to expose, disrupt, and promote accountability for perpetrators and enablers of criminal activities," Blinken said.

Monday's actions are the second-ever set of sanctions imposed on a digital currency blending firm.

The U.S. accuses Tornado Cash of helping to launder a portion of the more than \$600 million stolen by Lazarus Group, the sanctioned North Korean cyber hacking group, in one of the largest-known virtual cur-

rency heists to date.

In May, the U.S. announced sanctions against North Korean digital currency mixing firm Blender.io, accused of helping Lazarus Group to carry out the digital currency heist in March. And while the government says Tornado Cash has laundered around \$7 billion, Tom Robinson, co-founder of Elliptic, a blockchain analysis firm, estimates that the amount of funds laundered through Tornado is much lower, but at least \$1.5 billion.

Robinson said "it should be noted that there are legitimate uses of mixers such

as Tornado, such as to preserve financial privacy."

"Tornado Cash has repeatedly failed to impose effective controls designed to stop it from laundering funds for malicious cyber actors on a regular basis and without basic measures to address its risks," said Brian Nelson, Treasury's undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence. He said the agency "will continue to aggressively pursue actions against mixers that launder virtual currency for criminals and those who assist them." □

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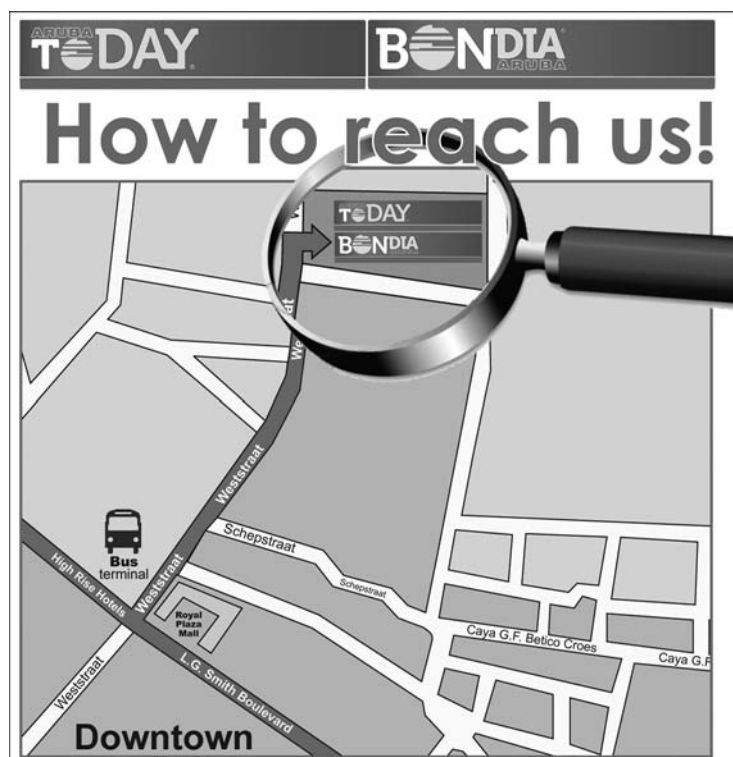
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Olivia Newton-John, who played Sandy in 'Grease,' dies at 73

By **HILLEL ITALIE**

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Olivia Newton-John, the Grammy-winning superstar who reigned on pop, country, adult contemporary and dance charts with such hits as "Physical" and "You're the One That I Want" and won countless hearts as everyone's favorite Sandy in the blockbuster film version of "Grease," has died. She was 73.

Newton-John, a longtime resident of Australia whose sales topped 100 million albums, died Monday at her southern California ranch, John Easterling, her husband, wrote on Instagram and Facebook.

"Olivia has been a symbol of triumphs and hope for over 30 years sharing her journey with breast cancer," he wrote. "We ask that everyone please respect the family's privacy during this very difficult time."

From 1973-83, Newton-John was among the world's most popular entertainers. She had 14 top 10 singles just in the U.S., won four Grammys, starred with John Travolta in "Grease" and with Gene Kelly in "Xanadu." The fast-stepping Travolta-Newton-John duet, "You're the One That I Want," was one of the era's biggest songs and has sold more than 15 million copies.

"My dearest Olivia, you



Actress and singer Olivia Newton-John attends the 2018 G'Day USA Los Angeles Gala in Los Angeles on Jan. 27, 2018.

made all of our lives so much better," Travolta wrote in an online post. "Your impact was incredible. I love you so much. We will see you down the road and we will all be together again. Yours from the moment I saw you and forever! Your Danny, your John!" "Physical," the bouncy, R-rated smash released in 1981, was No. 1 for 10 weeks and was named Billboard's song of the year despite being banned by some radio stations. An aerobics-friendly promotional clip, filmed in the early years of

MTV, won a Grammy for best video. Both musically and image-wise, she reinvented herself during those years. The blonde, ever-smiling Newton-John initially favored mild pop-country songs such as "Please Mr. Please" and "Have You Never Been Mellow" and soft-breathing ballads like "I Honestly Love You," which in 1975 won Grammys for best female pop vocal and record of the year. But she picked up the tempo in "Grease," especially after Sandy ditched her white sweaters

and blouses for waist-high, black leather pants. "Physical" even made Newton-John blush as she told her would-be lover "There's nothing left to talk about/ Unless it's horizontally" and finally called out "Let's get animal! Animal!" "I recorded it and then suddenly thought, 'Goodness, maybe I've gone too far!'" she told Entertainment Weekly in 2017, recalling how the song had been suggested by manager Roger Davies. "I called Roger and said, 'We've got to pull this song!'" He said,

"It's too late. It's already gone to radio and it's running up the charts." I was horrified!"

Fans flooded social media to mourn her death. "Farewell with love to the legend who will forever be my first crush," wrote actor Daniel Dae Kim. Added Tracie Thoms: "Olivia Newton-John is an icon. We will miss her dearly." Gabrielle Union said she and her sister watched "Xanadu" "more times than I could count." She had a few hits after "Physical," but her career declined and Newton-John became more likely to make news because of her private life.

In 1992, as she was preparing a concert tour, her father died and she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Her marriage to actor Matt Lattanzi, with whom she had a daughter, actor-singer Chloe Lattanzi, broke up in 1995 and a years-long relationship with cameraman Patrick McDermott ended mysteriously. McDermott went missing during a 2005 fishing trip in California and his fate remained unknown years later. Numerous reports alleged that he was living in Mexico, with a new girlfriend.

"He was lost at sea, and nobody really knows what happened," Newton-John told Australia's "60 Minutes" in 2016. "It's human to wonder. □"

Associated Press

Nicki Minaj to get Video Vanguard Award at MTV Awards

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Nicki Minaj will receive the Video Vanguard Award at the MTV Awards later this month, joining such previous winning music luminaries as Madonna, Janet Jackson, LL Cool J, Jennifer Lopez and Missy Elliott.

Minaj, who has won five MTV trophies for such hits as "Anaconda," "Chun-Li" and "Hot Girl Summer," will get the award and perform at the ceremony on Aug. 28 at the Prudential Center

in Newark, New Jersey.

"Nicki has broken barriers for women in hip-hop with her versatility and creative artistry," said Bruce Gillmer, chief content officer of music at Paramount+ and president of music, music talent, programming and events at Paramount. "She has shifted the music industry and cemented her status as a global superstar with her crossover appeal, genre-defying style and continuing to be unapologetically 'Nicki'."

Jack Harlow, Lil Nas X and

Kendrick Lamar are the top award contenders with seven nominations. Harlow, Lil Nas X, Drake, Bad Bunny, Ed Sheeran, Harry Styles and Lizzo will compete for artist of the year.

Styles and Doja Cat received the second-most nominations with six. Sheeran, Billie Eilish, Drake, Dua Lipa, Taylor Swift and The Weeknd each pulled in five.

Madonna, who is the most awarded artist in MTV history with 20 wins, becomes the only artist to receive a



Nicki Minaj poses in the press room with her award for best hip-hop video for "Chun-Li" at the MTV Video Music Awards in New York on Aug. 20, 2018.

Associated Press

nomination in each of the VMAs five decades. She earned her 69th nomination for her 14th studio album "Madame X."

Also performing will be Anitta, J Balvin, Marshmello with Khalid and Panic! At The Disco. More acts will be announced soon. □

PGA Tour says players knew consequences of joining LIV Golf

By DOUG FERGUSON

The PGA Tour asked a federal judge in San Francisco to deny the appeal of three suspended players who joined Saudi-backed LIV Golf and now want to compete in the tour's lucrative postseason, arguing the players knew the consequences two months ago.

Talor Gooch, Matt Jones and Hudson Swafford are seeking a temporary restraining order. They are among 10 players who filed an antitrust lawsuit against the PGA Tour last week.

The hearing is scheduled for 1 p.m. PDT Tuesday in San Jose, California, two days before the first of three FedEx Cup playoff events in the chase for the \$18 million top prize.

The FedEx St. Jude Championship in Memphis, Tennessee, has a \$15 million purse, and the top 70 players advance to the second postseason event in Wilmington, Delaware.

Gooch (No. 20), Jones (No. 65) and Swafford (No. 67) are among nine players who have joined LIV Golf and finished the regular



The "4 Aces" team celebrates with champagne after winning the team competition during a ceremony after the final round of the Bedminster Invitational LIV Golf tournament in Bedminster, N.J., Sunday, July 31, 2022. From left to right, Pat Perez, Talor Gooch, Patrick Reed and Dustin Johnson.

Associated Press

season among the top 125 in the FedEx Cup standings. The other six who joined LIV Golf are not asking to play in the tour's postseason.

In a court filing Monday to oppose the temporary restraining order, the tour argued antitrust laws do not allow the three players "to have their cake and eat it,

too."

Gooch, Swafford and Jones used the same phrase in separate, legal-heavy letters to tour officials last month in protesting their suspensions and claiming the regulations were onerous and kept them from playing elsewhere.

"I am a free agent and

independent contractor. The Tour cannot have its cake and eat it too by trying to control me as one might an employee, while not providing me the rights and benefits an employee would receive," each letter said.

The PGA Tour argued in its opposing motion, "Despite

knowing full well that they would breach TOUR Regulations and be suspended for doing so, Plaintiffs have joined competing golf league LIV Golf, which has paid them tens and hundreds of millions of dollars in guaranteed money supplied by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund."

The three players were not among the highest-sought players for Greg Norman's rival league, though they were among the initial group of players who signed with LIV Golf. Gooch was the only one among the top 50 in the world, mainly from his only PGA Tour win last November. "Plaintiffs have waited nearly two months to seek relief from the Court, fabricating an 'emergency' they now maintain requires immediate action," the filing said. "It doesn't."

The tour contends player knew they would be ineligible for the FedEx Cup playoffs "when they accepted millions from LIV to breach their agreements" with the tour. Players were not suspended until they actually teed off in a LIV Golf event.

USA Swimming cuts deal to simplify anonymous abuse reporting

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

DENVER (AP) — USA Swimming has added technology to its abuse-reporting systems that will allow better communication between those coordinating investigations and reporters who want to remain anonymous.

The organization announced a deal with RealResponse on Monday, which is international Safe Sport Day.

One feature in RealResponse's technology is the ability to exchange information with anonymous reporters via text without the reporters having to identify themselves. Though organizations can often act more decisively when victims or witnesses attach their names to reports, anonymous reporting is crucial because often victims fear retribution if their names

become public.

RealResponse has developed technology that allows reporters to file reports about abuse via text and for those who receive the reports to follow up while the name of the reporter remains concealed.

"Previously, we could receive an anonymous report, but we had no way to follow up with that individual if we had additional questions or didn't have enough information, or wanted to let them know what we were doing to follow up," said Abigail Howard, who oversees the director of USA Swimming's safe sport program.

USA Swimming plans to make the technology available to its approximately 400,000 members.

The national governing body is a defendant in several lawsuits claiming it failed to protect them from

abuse by coaches. In 2010, USA Swimming's former executive director, the late Chuck Wielgus, was accused of ignoring or downplaying dozens of cases of sexual abuse. Around 150 swimming coaches have since been banned by the U.S. Center for SafeSport, which was created in response to cases in swimming, gymnastics and other Olympic sports.

Though not affiliated with the SafeSport center, RealResponse started offering its own technology five years ago to help organizations streamline reporting and keep better track of the way they process and resolve cases. At times, organizations get into legal trouble because there's insufficient documentation to show how they responded when told about a case.

The mission, says the com-



Swimmers compete during the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials in Omaha, Neb., on June 20, 2021.

Associated Press

pany's founder, David Chadwick, is "providing a safe space for people to speak up and doing it in a really accessible and easy to use way and, frankly, helping leaders of these organizations identify issues faster before they become bigger crisis." RealResponse has deals with more

than 100 college sports programs, a handful of NFL teams and the National Women's Soccer League. In the Olympic realm, USA Swimming joins USA Track and Field, US Equestrian, USA Gymnastics and the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency among the organizations that have signed on. □

Bruins bring back captain Bergeron, and David Krejci, too

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Bruins are getting the gang back together, signing captain Patrice Bergeron and center David Krejci — both members of their 2011 Stanley Cup championship team — to one-year deals on Monday.

Almost three months after he left the ice without any certainty that he would return, Bergeron signed a one-year deal with the Bruins. A few hours later, the team announced that Krejci, who played last season in his native Czechia, will also be back for the 2022-23 season.

"Obviously, we're great friends and we go way back," Bergeron said in a video conference with reporters. "I'm super excited to get going with him and also the rest of the guys."

Bergeron got a \$2.5 million deal with \$2.5 million in incentives, and Krejci gets \$1 million with the potential for \$2 million more. Bergeron is fourth on the Original Six franchise's all-time scoring list with 982 points, and Krejci is ninth with 730.

"Obviously, I wanted to play. But I wanted to play with the Boston Bruins and that's because I believe in this team," Bergeron said. "A historical team is the only motivation you need, to leave this jersey in a better place."

The Bruins also announced a one-year deal for forward Pavel Zacha with a cap hit of \$3.5 million. Zacha, 25, scored 15 goals with 21 assists for New Jersey last year; Boston acquired him in the offseason in a trade for forward Erik Haula.

Bergeron, 37, and Krejci, 36, led the Bruins to the 2011 NHL championship



Boston Bruins' Patrice Bergeron is shown during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Pittsburgh Penguins, Saturday, April 16, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press

and two other trips to the Stanley Cup Final. Boston was eliminated in the first round of this year's playoffs by the Carolina Hurricanes on May 14 and fired coach Bruce Cassidy three weeks later.

Jim Montgomery was hired to replace Cassidy, and the new coach said at his introductory news conference that Bergeron, a five-time Selke Trophy winner, was his first call. Team CEO Charlie Jacobs said Bergeron, who was unsigned and contemplating retirement, was expected to return.

"So, fingers crossed," he said in July.

It worked.

"The fire, desire and passion were too strong for me to take that path right now," Bergeron told reporters. "I'm not ready, I guess, for the next step of my life. I still have some in the tank, something to give."

Bergeron has 400 goals

and 582 assists in 18 seasons — all with the Bruins, who selected him in the second round of the 2003 draft. Since then, he has established himself as the league's dominant two-way forward and one of the most respected players in the game.

When he does leave, the Bruins are expected to retire his No. 37, making him the 12th player so honored. He is a likely first-ballot inductee for the Hockey Hall of Fame as soon as he is eligible — now, that won't be until at least 2026.

Krejci has 215 goals and 515 assists in 15 years in the NHL — also all with Boston — and led the Bruins in scoring during the 2011 Stanley Cup run with 12 goals and 11 assists in 25 games. Playing for HC Olomouc in his homeland last year, he led the team with 20 goals, 26 assists and 46 points in 51 games.

Bergeron is third in Bruins history with 1,216 games played, and fourth in goals, assists and points. He is second all-time for the Bruins with 47 playoff goals and 123 points.

Bergeron's 11 straight seasons as a Selke finalist — including this year — is the longest streak of top three finishes for an NHL award, breaking Wayne Gretzky's record of 10 in a row as an MVP finalist (Gretzky won the Hart Trophy nine times). Bergeron played 2021-22 without a future contract for the first time in his career, scoring 25 goals with 40 assists and helping the Bruins reach the playoffs for the 14th time in his 18 seasons. They were eliminated by the Hurricanes in seven games.

Bergeron was the last Boston player off the ice in Carolina, leading his teammates through the handshake line and giving each

of his teammates a hug. He said he hadn't decided about his future.

"That's why this one probably hurts more, the unknown for next year with him," forward Brad Marchand, the second-longest tenured player on the roster, said after the Game 7 loss. "He's done so much for this group and sacrificed so much. It would have been nice to make a good run for him."

Bergeron, Krejci and Marchand are the only players from the 2011 Stanley Cup team left on the Bruins roster. Longtime captain Zdeno Chara left as a free agent in 2020 and goalie Tuukka Rask abandoned his comeback from hip surgery in the middle of this season.

The Bruins have 25-year-old David Pastrnak on offense, 24-year-old Charlie McAvoy on defense and 22-year-old Jeremy Swayman in net. Hampus Lindholm, 28, was acquired midseason to shore up the defense, and Marchand is still one of the league's most dangerous scorers at 33.

Losing Bergeron would have been the end of the most successful era in the team's history since the Big, Bad Bruins of Hall of Famers Bobby Orr, Phil Esposito, Gerry Cheevers and John Bucyk.

"He's the backbone of our team. He's obviously the biggest part of our team," Marchand said after the playoff exit. "So, yeah, we want him to come back. Whatever happens, he's earned the right to make whatever decision he wants and take whatever time that he needs." □



Baltimore Ravens kicker Justin Tucker (9) celebrates after an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings in Baltimore, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021.

Associated Press

Ravens reach 4-year extension with All-Pro K Justin Tucker

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP) — The Baltimore Ravens agreed to a four-year contract extension with star kicker Justin Tucker.

The team announced the move Monday. Tucker's previous deal was through 2023. A five-time All-Pro,

Tucker has been a game changer for the Ravens in his 10 years with the team. He's made a record 91.1% of his field goal attempts, and his 1,360 points are the most ever by a player through his first 10 seasons. He set another record last

year with a 66-yard kick at Detroit that won the game. He is 16 of 16 on field goal attempts in the final minute of regulation and has converted 58 straight in the fourth quarter and overtime, the longest active streak in the league. □